

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127010

FOLLOWING REPEAT ACCRA 2996 SENT ACTION SECSTAAE INFO ABIDJAN
ADDIS ABABA CASABLANCA FREETOWN JOHANNESBURG AND KINSHASA DTD
12 MAYH75
QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 22996

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA WHITMAN; LAGOS ALSO FOR FAA

ABIDJAN ALSO FOR ASST SECY DAVIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR GH

SUB: CIVAIR:: GOG REITERATES HARD LINE ON BILATERAL AND
PRESSURES ON PANAM

REF: A) ACCRA 2880 (NOTAL) B) ACCRA 2936(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
TOOK HARD LINE MAY 9 ON GOG DEMAND FOR BILATERAL AVIATION
AGREEMENT AND PRESSURES ON PANAM DURING CALL BY ASST
SECYY DAVIS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
(COL. AGYEKUM) RECEIVED ASST SECY DAVIS, ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR, USAID DIRECTOR, EC COUNSELOR AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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SIMPSON MAY 9. AGYEKUM RAISED SUBJECT OF AVIATION BILATERAL
AND PANAM (ALTHOUGH CALL ARRANGED ON ANOTHER SUBJECT).

3. AGYEKUM EMPHASIZED THAT GOG DEL OERATELY BEING

"PUNITIVE" TO PANAM TO FORCE BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT FROM USG; GOG INTENDED USE EVERY LEGAL WEAPON AT ITS COMMAND. HE SAID GOG WANTED PARTIES TO MEET AND TO AGREE DURING NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. GOG TOOK FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS AWAY FROM PANAM (BETWEEN ACCRA AND DAKAR, MONROVIA, AND NAIROBI, IN BOTH DIRECTIONS) BECAUSE LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE HAD RESTRICTED GHANA AIRWAYS' (GH) FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS AND, ALTHOUGH TALKS CURRENTLY GOING ON TO REMOVE THESE IMPEDIMENTS FOR GH, GOG RESPONSE IS "LET'S HIT SOMEONE ELSE IN THE CHAIN."

4. RESPONDING TO QUESTION FROM DAVIS, AGYEKUM SAID CURRENTLY GOG ONLY WANTS TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AND TO OBTAIN THEORETICAL RIGHTS TO US AND BEYOND. SUCH RIGHTS WOULD PROBABLY BE LEFT IN ABEYANCE A NUMBER OF YEARS, PERHPAS UNTIL WEST AFRICAN AIRLINES COMBINED OR OPERATED SOME SORT OF POOL. HE POINTED OUT THAT GOG CURRENTLY HAD BILATERALS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHERE NO SERVICES (E.G., INDIA), AND LET DROP INFORMATION THAT USSR WANTS TO RENEW ITS BILATERAL WITH GHANA.

5. DAVIS REPLIED THAT ANSWER CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON AGREEING TO GOG REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF AVIATION TALKS, BUTPOINTED OUT QUESTIOON OF AIR RIGHTS ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE AREAS, AND HIGHLIGHTED CURRENT AVIATION INDUSTRY DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID US HAS DIFFICULTY GRANTING THEORETICAL RIGHTS, POINTED OUT PROPOSED GH-PPANAM TALKS ARE SEPARATEE FROM GOOG-USG NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT PAANAM AND USG SEPARATE ENTITIES.

6. DAVIS AND AMBASSADOR BOTH HOPED GOG WOULD GIVE PANAM RESOONABLE TIME TO COMPLY WITH ITS "IMMEDIATE EFFECT" DEMAND WITHDRAWING SOME FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS. DAVIS NOTED GH HAD ACCEPTED PANAM'S SUGGESTION (MADE AT AGYEKUM'S REQUEST) THAT THERE BE GH-PANAM TALKS, AND POINTED OUT WOULD BE USEFUL AWAIT THEIR OUTCOME BEFORE PROCEEDING AGAINST PANAM. AMBASSADOR REMINDED AGGYEKUM THAT PANAM SR. V.P. CONFIDENTIAL

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FLANAGAN HAD SAID PANAM WAS CONSIDERING DROPPING ACCRA ENTIRELY, AND RECENT GOG ACTION MAY PRECIPITATE THAT UNFORTUNATE RESULT; DAVIS EMPHASIZED THAT AN AIRLINE SERVICE ONCE DROPPED, EVEN TEMPORARILY, IS DIFFICULT TO RESTORE, AND POINTED OUT THAT TOURISM WOULD BE AFFECTED. AGYEKUM NOTED THESE REMARKS BUT MADE NO PROMISES. (IN MEANTIME, PANAM HAS STOPPED PASSENGER, FREIGHT, AND MAIL SERVICE OF ALL KINDS BETWEEN ACCRA AND DAKAR, MONROVIA AND NAIROBI, EFFECTIVE MAY 9)

7. AGYEKUM CONCLUDED MEETING BY STATING "THERE IS A FUTURE FOR GHANAIAAN-US AVIATION COOPERATION." DAVIS ASSURED HIM GOG WOULD MEET WITH CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION

ONPART OF USG.

8. FOREGOING CLEARED IN DRAFT FOR A/SEC.

BBACK

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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